



PATENT  
Docket No. 10235/4

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor : Yoshihiro, SATO  
Serial No. : 09/242,561  
Filed : February 19, 1999  
For : METHOD FOR RETAINING MINUTE DROPLET,  
REACTION AND REACTION VESSEL  
Group Art Unit : 1655  
Examiner : Forman, B.

BOX AF  
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington D.C. 20231

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**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Madame:

This is in response to the Final Office Action mailed July 24, 2001. Accordingly, this response is due on or before October 24, 2001. It is respectfully requested that the following amendments be entered to place this application in condition for allowance or better form for appeal.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

21. (Thrice Amended) A process for reducing evaporation of a minute droplet of an aqueous solution comprising the steps of:
- providing a planar substrate;
  - providing an oily liquid layer;
  - providing an aqueous solution immiscible with said oily layer; and
  - shooting a minute droplet by inkjet technique of said aqueous solution into said oily liquid layer to contact said planar substrate,